

January 24, 2003

The Honorable Mayor Greg Nickels  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1200  
Seattle, WA. 98104

Dear Mayor Nickels,

Please add my name to the long list of those who support your nomination of Gary Zarker to continue as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. I have known Gary for more than twenty years. I admire and respect the job he has done at City Light. As a City resident I am thankful that he has been guiding the utility through this tumultuous time.

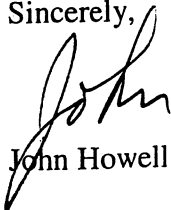
I met Gary in the early 1980's when we both served as deputies in the City budget office. We worked together for four years, including two in which he served as my boss. Since that time our paths have crossed frequently in a variety of civic and professional activities.

I am certainly aware of the criticism that has recently been directed toward City Light and at Gary. But I believe you could not have made a better choice than to nominate Gary for another term as Superintendent. He is one of the best managers I know, in either the public or private sector. As I have watched Gary's career I have seen a rare combination of skills that make him a very effective leader. He has the unique ability to blend strong technical knowledge with public policy, while at the same time understanding the implications of decisions for local and regional elected officials.

I have always been impressed with Gary's willingness to make hard decisions, and to take responsibility for his bad ones. I would suggest that Gary possesses the qualities we want in all of our public servants: passion, energy, a commitment to community service, and the highest level of integrity.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support your nomination.

Sincerely,



John Howell

Cc. Heidi Wills